

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 1 July 1955

SUBJECT Hron Metal Foundries in Svaty Kriz
 nad Hronom

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The aluminum works in Svaty Kriz on the Hron has been enlarged and is continually being improved. Most of the raw materials are imported from Hungary; a small amount of this material is produced in Czechoslovakia. The plant concentrates on the production of aluminum ingots. Semi-finished products represent only a small percentage of the output.
2. The plant is assumed to be headed by Dr Ing Hranicek (fnu), who frequently visits the USSR. In 1953, the labor force of the plant amounted to 1,800 men, in 1954 to approximately 2,500 men and, on 1 January 1955, to 2,800 men. The figures do not include engineers and employees.
3. The largest laboratory for the aluminum production of the satellite countries is allegedly located in Svaty Kriz. The laboratory, which has the character of an institute, continually conducts courses, allegedly held in Russian language. In early January 1955, the hotel of the plant quartered some 100 persons including Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Hungarians and 2 Albanians.

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1 Comment. Known as the Iron Metal Foundries, (Kovchutye Iron).

Comment. The aluminum works in Svaty Kriz nad Hrenem, the only aluminum works in Czechoslovakia, started operations in September 1953. According to schedule, the output of the plant was to cover 10 percent of the Czech aluminum needs in 1953 and 72 percent of the Czech aluminum in 1954. Since Czechoslovakia has a yearly need of 10,000 tens of aluminum, the production of the plant is believed to have amounted to 1,000 tens in 1953 and 7,000 tens in 1954. In 1954, 80 new electrolytic tanks were reportedly put in operation. The size of the tanks and the strength of current used are unknown.

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